

## **Sustainable Mobilities and Inclusion**

### **Monthly Cycles**

[Monthly Cycles](#) is a Dublin-based initiative, with the aim of bringing women in Dublin together each month for an inclusive cycle around the city. We promote inclusion through these social cycles and through advocacy and engagement with decision makers and influencers.

Monthly Cycles is preparing a report on Sustainable Mobilities and Inclusion, with support from Dublin City Council through Bike Week 2020 and the Dublin Cycling Campaign. Ahead of publishing our interim report, which is due in December 2020, this paper summarises the progress of the report to date.

### **Report background and aims**

The Monthly Cycles report seeks to link sustainable mobilities with statutory requirements which prohibit discrimination and promote equality in the activities of public bodies: the Public Sector Duty (PSD), as defined under [Section 42 of the Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014](#). The aim of this report to support all activists and advocates who are calling for accessible and inclusive sustainable mobilities.

The private car is the primary mode of transport in Ireland, as a result of policy and investment decisions made over the last century. The impact of these decisions has resulted in inequality in access, safety and enjoyment of the public realm and participation in society. It has also impacted on the environment and climate in ways that have inequitable consequences. Over recent years, there has been increased interest in sustainable forms of mobility, and a shift towards re-designing places to provide for more sustainable transport.

This shift towards sustainable mobilities must provide for everyone and for further equality of access to the public realm and mobility. Currently, access to sustainable mobility is frequently impeded not just by lack of infrastructure and paucity of accessibility, but also by discrimination, social barriers, and physical risk. As provision for sustainable mobilities continues to grow, the discrimination experienced by some must end. Sustainable mobilities must be for everyone in every community – it must be inclusive.

The Monthly Cycles report will consider the application of the **Public Sector Duty** (PSD), to sustainable mobilities. The PSD confers duties on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and protect the human rights of all people who use their services. This report understands the infrastructure and provisions related to sustainable mobility to be a ‘service’, and that all people who make use of (or who are denied access to) these services should therefore be duly regarded by the relevant public body.

The report seeks to demonstrate that the public bodies responsible for provision of sustainable mobilities should understand their services through the lens of the PSD, and that by doing so, insights into the equality issues inherent to current provision of sustainable mobilities become apparent. Most importantly, the report aims to demonstrate that the PSD introduces ways forward towards promoting equality, preventing discrimination, and protecting the human rights of all those who currently use, or would like to use, sustainable mobilities.

The aims of the project are to:

## Monthly Cycles, *Sustainable mobilities and inclusion* (Summary paper, November 2020)

- Assess sustainable mobilities and related policies and programmes against the various grounds of discrimination and equality
- Identify and make recommendations for implementing the positive duty on transport bodies to achieve greater inclusion and equality and remove barriers in future sustainable mobilities policy and programmes

### Approach

This study involves three main components:

1. Desk-based research
2. In-depth qualitative interviews
3. An online survey of relevant stakeholders.

Desk-based research was carried out into sustainable mobilities and relevant public body policy and implementation. This included relevant literature, academic research, and government policy to bring together evidence of the inequalities currently enforced through provision of sustainable mobilities. This research applied the lens of the PSD to give insight into the variety of experiences of sustainable mobilities within communities and to identify gaps in the literature.

Qualitative interviews with six professionals invested in different areas of sustainable mobilities and inclusivity were conducted to build on the desk-based research. These interviews covered the respondent's personal experiences and aspirations in relation to mobility, their insight into the barriers to access sustainable mobilities, and their vision for inclusive sustainable mobilities.

The report will bring together key messages from the literature and interview respondents to explore discrimination in transport, mobilities and the public realm across nine grounds related to the PSD: gender, marital status, family status, age disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community; plus the additional ground of socio-economic status.

### Emerging findings

Applying the lens of the Public Sector Duty to sustainable mobilities allows for a fine-grained appraisal of the inequalities that currently exist, and of potential solutions.

## About Monthly Cycles and the Public Sector Duty

**Monthly Cycles** was founded in the summer of 2019. Recognising the historic and continuing role of cycles as “freedom machines,” which provide affordable and equitable transport options for many, the aim of Monthly Cycles is to push for inclusion in cycling, active travel and policy making. We seek to achieve this aim through social cycling events and rights-based advocacy.

**The Public Sector Duty** is provided for in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act, 2014. This statutory requirement imposes a mandatory, positive duty on public sector bodies to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and equality in the performance of their functions.